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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

MATTHEW EDWARDS, et al., individually and
on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

NATIONAL MILK PRODUCERS
FEDERATION, aka COOPERATIVES
WORKING TOGETHER; DAIRY FARMERS OF
AMERICA, INC.; LAND O’LAKES, INC.;
DAIRYLEA COOPERATIVE INC.; and AGRI-
MARK, INC.,

Defendants.

Case No. 11-CV-04766-JSW

[consolidated with 11-CV-04791-JSW
and 11-CV-05253-JSW]

**~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFFS’ UNOPPOSED
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION
SETTLEMENT
AS MODIFIED**

1 ~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER

2 Now before the Court is Plaintiffs' Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class
3 Action Settlement. The Court has considered the parties' papers, relevant legal authority, and the
4 record in this case, and the Court hereby GRANTS the Motion for Preliminary Approval.

5 WHEREAS, plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the proposed settlement
6 class, and defendants National Milk Producers Federation, on behalf of itself and Cooperatives
7 Working Together, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Dairy Farmers of America, Inc., Dairylea Cooperative,
8 Inc., and Agri-Mark, Inc. have agreed, subject to Court approval, to settle the above captioned
9 litigation upon the terms set forth in the settlement agreement;

10 WHEREAS, this Court has reviewed and considered the settlement agreement entered into
11 among the parties, the record in this case, the briefs and arguments of counsel, and supporting
12 exhibits;

13 WHEREAS, plaintiffs have moved, unopposed, for an order granting preliminary approval of
14 the settlement agreement;

15 WHEREAS, the proposed settlement class refers collectively to the sixteen classes already
16 certified by the Court in its Order Regarding Motion for Class Certification (ECF No. 266) and its
17 subsequent order certifying a class for the state of West Virginia (ECF No. 287). For purposes of
18 clarity these orders together define the certified classes as:

19 All consumers who, from 2003 to the present, as residents of Arizona,
20 California, the District of Columbia, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan,
21 Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oregon, South Dakota,
22 Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, and/or Wisconsin, indirectly
purchased milk and/or other fresh milk products (including cream, half
& half, yogurt, cottage cheese, cream cheese, and/or sour cream) for
their own use and not for resale.

23 Excluded are (1) Defendants and their co-conspirators; (2) any entity in
24 which Defendants have a controlling interest; (3) Defendants' officers,
25 directors, and employees; (4) Defendants' legal representatives,
26 successors, and assigns; (5) governmental entities; and (6) the Court to
27 which this case is assigned.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

2 1. The Court does hereby preliminarily approve the settlement agreement, subject to further
3 consideration at the final fairness hearing described below.

4 2. A final approval hearing shall be held before this Court on **December 16, 2016, at 9:00**
5 **a.m., in Courtroom 5, 2nd Floor, at the United States District Court, located at 1301 Clay**
6 **Street, Oakland, California**, to determine whether the proposed settlement on the terms and
7 conditions provided for in the settlement agreement is fair, reasonable and adequate to the settlement
8 class and should be approved by the Court; whether final judgment should be entered; the amount of
9 fees, costs, and expenses that should be awarded to plaintiffs' counsel; and the amount of any service
10 awards to be awarded to the class representatives. Any class member may appear at the fairness
11 hearing to be heard on any of these determinations, regardless of whether the class member has
12 previously filed written objections. The Court may change the day of the fairness hearing without
13 further notice to the members of the settlement class.

14 3. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court has already
15 certified the following classes, which the settlement agreement uses to in turn define the settlement
16 class.¹ Accordingly the Court approves the dissemination of notice to the settlement class as follows:

17 All consumers who, from 2003 to the present, as residents of Arizona,
18 California, District of Columbia, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan,
19 Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oregon, South Dakota,
20 Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, and/or Wisconsin, indirectly
purchased milk and/or other fresh milk products (including cream, half
& half, yogurt, cottage cheese, cream cheese, and/or sour cream) for
their own use and not for resale.

21 Excluded are (1) Defendants and their co-conspirators; (2) any entity in
22 which Defendants have a controlling interest; (3) Defendants' officers,
23 directors, and employees; (4) Defendants' legal representatives,
successors, and assigns; (5) governmental entities; and (6) the Court to
which this case is assigned.

24 4. The Court approves, as to form and content, the notice of the proposed settlement
25 agreement, attached to Declaration of Alan Vasquez, subject to the provisions of Paragraph 6 of this
26

27 ¹ The notice of pendency was disseminated to classes with a period extending to 2012, *see* ECF
28 No. 312, but the settlement notice will be disseminated to classes with a period extending to the
present, as originally certified, *see* ECF No. 266.

1 order. The Court further finds that the proposed notice campaign substantially meets the
2 requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and due process, is the best notice practicable
3 under the circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.

4 5. The Court confirms and appoints Gilardi & Co. LLC and Sipree, Inc. as the settlement
5 notice administrators. The settlement notice administrators shall commence all aspects of the
6 approved notice campaign, including internet, dedicated website and press release, as more fully set
7 forth in the Vasquez declaration, no later than September 2, 2016.

8 6. Prior to publication of the settlement notice approved above, the settlement notice
9 administrators are ordered to accurately conform all dates in the approved settlement notice to the
10 dates approved by the terms of this Order. Additionally, the settlement notice administrator shall
11 conform the long form notice to Docket No. 429-1.

12 7. Class Counsel shall file their motion for attorney fees, costs, and service awards, and all
13 supporting documentation and papers, no later than October 14, 2016.

14 8. Any person who desires to file an objection to the settlement or request exclusion from
15 the settlement class shall do so by October 28, 2016, in conformance with the provisions of the
16 settlement notice as approved above.

17 9. In particular, all written objections and supporting papers, if any, must (a) clearly identify
18 the case name and number (*Edwards v. National Milk Producers Federation*, Case No. 11-CV-
19 04766-JSW); (b) be submitted to the Court either by mailing them to the Class Action Clerk, United
20 States District Court for the Northern District of California, 1301 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612,
21 or by filing them in person at any location of the United States District Court for the Northern
22 District of California; and (c) be filed or postmarked on or before October 28, 2016.

23 10. Class counsel shall file their motion for final approval of settlement, and all supporting
24 documentation and papers, no later than November 11, 2016.

25 11. Class counsel may file a written response to any objections to the settlement agreement,
26 or to the application for attorneys' fees, reimbursement of expenses, and class representative service
27 awards, no later than 14 days before the final fairness hearing, or by December 2, 2016.

28 12. At the final approval hearing, class counsel shall provide the Court with any updated
information available as of that date concerning any requests for exclusion received from the

1 settlement class, any objections received from the settlement class, or any other communications
 2 received in response to the notice of settlement.

3 13. At or after the fairness hearing, the Court shall determine whether the settlement
 4 agreement, the motion for attorney’s fees and expenses, and any service awards shall be approved.

5 14. All reasonable expenses incurred in notifying the settlement class ~~and administering the~~
 6 ~~settlement~~ shall be paid as set forth in the settlement agreement. At the fairness hearing, the Court
 7 will consider the application for approval to pay the costs of settlement administration.

8 15. Neither the settlement agreement, nor any of its terms or provisions, nor any of the
 9 negotiations or proceedings connected with it, shall be construed as an admission or concession by
 10 plaintiffs or defendants, respectively, of the truth or falsity of any of the allegations made, or of any
 11 liability, fault or wrongdoing of any kind.

12 16. The Court adopts the following schedule proposed in the motion:

Event	Deadline
Hearing and order re preliminary approval	August 26, 2016
Notice campaign to begin, including internet, dedicated website, and press release	September 2, 2016 [one week from preliminary approval order]
Last day for motion for attorneys’ fees, costs, expenses, and service awards	October 14, 2016 [two weeks before objection deadline]
Last day to file objections to the settlement or requests for exclusion from the class	October 28, 2016 [eight weeks from notice]
Last day for motion in support of final approval of settlements	November 11, 2016 [two weeks after objection deadline]
Last date for defendants to rescind the agreement based on opt-outs	November 27, 2016 [30 days from the last day to opt out]
Last day for response to objections, reply in support of motion for final approval, and reply in support of motion for attorneys’ fees, costs, expenses, and service awards	December 2, 2016 [two weeks prior to the final fairness hearing]
Final Fairness Hearing	December 16, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. [five weeks after motion for final approval], unless otherwise ordered by the Court


Last day to file claims

January 31, 2017

17. The Court reserves the right to adjourn, continue or otherwise change the date of the fairness hearing without further notice to the members of the settlement class, and retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed settlement agreement. The members of the settlement class ^{are} ~~as~~ advised to confirm the date of the final approval hearing as set forth in the settlement notice. The Court may approve the settlement agreement, with such modifications as may be agreed to by the settling parties, if appropriate, without further notice to the settlement class.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: August 25, 2016


HONORABLE JEFFREY S. WHITE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE